

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. SUMMARY. SECRETARY'S MIDEAST MISSION REMAINS TOP STORY, DESPITE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE REPORTED ISRAELI AIR STRIKES IN SOUTH LEBANON. HEADLINES FOCUS ON SECRETARY'S COMMENT THAT CHANCES OF SUCCESS ARE 52 TO 48. TREATMENT VARIES, WITH SOME ACCOUNTS STRESSING HOPEFUL STATEMENTS U.S. AND REGIONAL OFFICIALS AND OTHERS THE OBSTACLES, PARTICULARLY REPORTS THAT SYRIANS ADAMANT FOR AND ISRAELIS FIRMLY AGAINST TOTAL WITHDRAWAL TIMETABLE. MOST PAPERS PICK UP MAARIV REPORT OF THREE NIXON MESSAGES URGING MEIR TO BE FLEXIBLE, LAST OF WHICH SUPPOSEDLY STATES "HISTORY DOES NOT REPEAT ITSELF." EDITORIAL CONTINUED STRESS ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE AND URGENT NEED FOR U.S. TO OVERCOME IT. END SUMMARY.

2. LEADING INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR COMMENTED: "EVEN
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KISSINGER'S PREVAILING OPTIMISM CANNOT STOP THE DIFFICULTIES

FROM PILING UP. SYRIA DECLARES IT WILL NOT BUDGE FROM ITS POSITION...WHILE ISRAEL SAYS IT WILL OFFER NOTHING MORE THAN IT HAS ALREADY...AMIDST ALL THIS, DR. KISSINGER IS EXPECTED TO CREATE A MIRACLE SATISFYING SYRIA, ISRAEL, EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, THE US AND THE USSR."

3. PRO-COMMANDO AL MUHARRIR: "THE DISENGAGEMENT PROCESS, IF ACHIEVED, IS NOT GOAL IN ITSELF BUT ONLY OCCASION FOR PARTIES TO MOVE TO NEXT STAGE. IF KISSINGER'S MISSION IS SUCCESSFUL, IT WILL BE A PERSONAL TRIUMPH BUT IT WILL NOT, IN LONG RUN, END STRUGGLE IN THE AREA OR LEAD TO THE DESIRED PEACE."

4. PRO-LIBYAN AS SAFIR: "WHETHER KISSINGER SUCCEEDS OR FAILS IN REACHING GOLAN DISENGAGEMENT, HIS DIPLOMATIC DEFEAT IS IMMINENT...IT WILL COME FROM THE FACT THAT THE DISENGAGEMENT WILL BE BASED ON SYRIA'S PLANS, AND NOT ON KISSINGER'S SCHEMES."

5. PRO-WEST AL JARIDA: "ISRAEL IS COSTING THE U.S. ALMOST HALF ITS BUDGET...WITHDRAWAL OF ARAB MONEY FROM WESTERN BANKS...THE HAMPERING OF U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE CUTOFF OF ITS OIL SUPPLY...IN THE LIGHT OF THIS ISRAEL SHOULD YIELD TO TODAY'S ARAB DEMANDS, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE ARABS STILL LISTEN TO AMERICA AND STILL KEEP SOME DISTANCE FROM RUSSIA. IF ISRAEL MAINTAINS ITS INTRANSIGENCE, ARAB DEMANDS WILL GROW LARGER AND LARGER...AND THERE THEN WILL BE NO U.S. MEDIATION.

6. PRO-SAUDI AL HAYAT: "FAILURE OF DR. KISSINGER'S MISSION WOULD MEAN WOULD MEAN THAT ARABS WOULD LOSE HOPE FOR ANY SOLUTION FOR MIDDLE EAST CRISIS EXCEPT BY WAR... BUT IF WE REMEMBER THAT THE TWO SUPERPOWERS REALIZE BEFORE ANYONE ELSE THE IMPACT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS ON THE WORLD, WE WILL UNDERSTAND OPTIMISM OF SAUDI ARABIA FOR ACHIEVEMENT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. THE TWO SUPERPOWERS REALIZE THAT ANY FAILURE IN THIS MATTER WILL PUT THE WORLD AT A CROSSROAD."

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